commitment to resume the Composite Dialogue with Pakistan, and to pick up the threads of Lahore and Agra. Pakistan must end its sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India so as to create a conducive enviornment for the resumption of dialogue.

Pakistani leaders, in public, especially while addressing foreign audiences, frequently make propagandist calls for the resumption of dialogue but at the same time continue with Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of India.The terrorist attacks on the Jammu & Kashmir State Assembly on 1st October, and the attacks on the Awantipura Airforce Station the same month, further underscored this fact. Pakistan has not even responded to the confidence building measures proposed to them on 4th, 6th and 9th July 2001 prior to the visit of President Musharraf to India the same month. The extent of Pakistan's seriousness to hold a productive dialogue with India is therefore very obvious.

Government are firmly resolved to take all necessary steps to resist terrorism until it is decisively crushed.

General Assembly Summit

1270. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the postponed November, 2001 Summit of General Assembly is proposed to be held; and

(b) whether Prime Minister would attend the summit to persuade the World the need for a global approach to terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) The General Debate of the 56th Session of UN General Assembly, which was originally scheduled to be held from September 24th—October 5th, 2001, and was postponed on account of the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, was finally held from November 10th—16th, 2001.

(b) The Prime Minister attended the General Debate of the 56th Session of the UN General Assembly. In his Statement, delivered on 10th November, 2001, he referred directly to the need for a global approach to terrorism, stating that even while uniting the nations of the world in their grief, "this terrible tragedy has created the opportunity to fashion a determined global response

to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever it exists and under whatever name". He added that it would take "firm political will of the freedom-loving world" to rigorously implement the recent Security Council resolutions on the subject of terrorism.

Medical aid and relief material for Afghanistan

1271. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sent medical aid and relief material to Afghanistan for war victims there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the route through which it was sent to Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) to (c) The Government, as part of its commitment to strengthen its bilateral ties with Afghan people, has regularly sent consignments of humanitiarian assistance, through various routes, for the people of Afghanistan, comprising of medical supplies, edible oil, tea, blankets, tents and food items. Recently, Government has pledged to send one million tonnes of wheat for Afghan people. In addition, as part of Government's commitment to contribute to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of post conflict Afghanistan, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has declared to offer a line of credit of US $ 100 million to Afghanistan, after the situation has stabilized in that country.

America's view on Indian Secularism

†1272. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Department of America has questioned India's secularism; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) The U.S. State Department's Congressionally-mandated Annual Report on International Religious Freedom, released on October 26, 2001, affirms that India is a secular State. The Report has commented positively on

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.